



# Stanislaus County

## DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Administration Building  
1100 H Street, Rm. 1  
Modesto, California 95354-2382  
Phone (209) 525-6397  
Fax (209) 525-5930

May 5, 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED  
MAY 20 1997  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

MAY 8 2 30 PM '97

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
STANISLAUS COUNTY

Re: Ex parte contact in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 96-262

Dear Commissioner Ness:

We understand that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FERRO, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. At the same time that it is considering imposing these new costs on American businesses, we are told that the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closer to the true economic cost of local access services.

I urge you not to adopt the foregoing proposals which would, in effect, impose a new tax on American businesses, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate rebalancing" or "modification of rate structures". With all due respect, we believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the people's representatives, not the appointed officials. Moreover, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

The time has come for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than \$3 billion a year higher than they should be. All consumers, businesses as well as residential, deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be address in other ways and not get in the way of these reforms.

Sincerely,

*Charles Wright*

Charles Wright, MIS Director

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

May 7, 1997

Dear FCC Commissioners:

As the CEO of rural hospital in Kentucky, I am writing to ask you to please support the universal service policy presently under review.

Rural Hospitals have higher Medicaid, Medicare and indigent populations to serve and often times can't afford or support practice requirements of full time medical specialists and subspecialists. Telemedicine provides us with immediate diagnostic results and communication links that are essential in continuing to deliver quality care to those who most need it in medically under served areas.

Universal service rates which are more affordable for voice and data transmission are essential to our ability to survive and deliver care. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne Reasbeck".

Suzanne Reasbeck  
President/CEO

COMMUNITY  
METHODIST  
HOSPITAL

May 7, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Carol Blevins Ormay  
Vice President/Membership Services  
Kentucky Hospital Association  
P. O. Box 24163  
Louisville, Kentucky 40224-0163

Dear Ms. Ormay:

I am writing this letter to show Community Methodist Hospital's support for the "universal service" telecommunications policy, a part of the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which is to be voted upon this date by FCC Commissioners.

This policy could play a significant role in the operations of small rural hospitals, considering the costs per mile for a communications line to their facility. Unregulated fees certainly could reduce the ability of those facilities to bring services into their communities which are so necessary in today's culture.

Please count Community Methodist Hospital among the supporters for universal service regulations.

Very truly yours,

COMMUNITY METHODIST HOSPITAL

Bruce D. Begley  
Executive Director

BDB/jcp

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL  
RECEIVED

MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

MAY 8 8 45 AM '97

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
SUSAN L. JOSENo. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED JACKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

GALENA-STAUSS HOSPITAL  
AND NURSING CARE FACILITY**FAX TRANSMISSION**

One (1) Total pages, including this page:

**TO:** Janice Wise  
**COMPANY:** Federal Communications Commission (FCC)  
**FAX #:** (202) 418-2821

**FROM:** Roger D. Hervey, Administrator  
**COMPANY:** Galena-Stauss Hospital  
**PHONE #:** (815) 777-1340

**DATE:** May 7, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary**SUBJECT:** Universal Service

We are a small, rural, public hospital located a small town of less than 5,000 population, in rural county of less than 25,000 population in extreme North West Illinois.

Our primary referral hospitals are located 20 miles West in Dubuque, Iowa.

We have limited telemedicine connections to one of these hospitals. The related inter-state and inter-phone company regulations and bureaucracies were a nightmare to establish this service and are an on-going headache to maintain. The cost is very high at over \$1,000 per month for one line for this relatively short distance. We would have additional telemedicine and telecommunications with the Dubuque hospitals and physicians' offices if the costs were lower.

To assist with the costs of telecommunications, we respectfully request that you approve "Universal Service Support for Distance Charges" which we understand the FCC is deliberating at this time.

Similarly, since the population of our community is low, we do not have access to the national internet access companies. We can access them only by using high priced toll calls.

Again, to assist with the high costs involved, we respectfully request the FCC to approve "Universal Service Support for Toll-Free Connections to the Internet."

Thank you for your attention to and assistance with these matters.

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE

MAY-08-1997 10:20  
427 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5031

2100 NINTH STREET, ROOM 302  
MERIDIAN, MS 39302  
(601) 693-6681

110-D AIRPORT ROAD  
PEARL, MS 39208  
(801) 932-2410

2080 AIRPORT ROAD, SUITE D  
COLUMBUS, MS 39701  
(601) 327-2766

CONG. CHIP PICKERING  
CHIP PICKERING  
30 DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

202 225 5797 P.02/02

TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION, VICE CHAIRMAN  
AVIATION

AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
LIVESTOCK, DAIRY AND POULTRY  
FORESTRY, RESOURCE CONSERVATION  
AND RESEARCH

SCIENCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
BASIC RESEARCH  
SPACE AND AERONAUTICS

ASSISTANT WHIP AT LARGE  
POLICY COMMITTEE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2403

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

May 1, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Chairman Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
8th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

It has come to my attention that the Joint Board recommendations require paging companies to contribute to the Universal Service Fund. As a former Senate staffer who was instrumental in drafting the Telecommunications Act which this proceeding is now implementing, I do not believe it was ever the intent that paging be required to pay into the Fund on the same basis as other telecommunications providers. Specifically, it conflicts with Section 254(d) that "telecommunications carriers shall contribute to Universal Service support on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis."

As a Member of Congress representing a district with many rural Americans, I am very supportive of the Universal Service Fund. However, the Universal Service Fund envisioned in the Telecommunications Act does not require unfairly burdening the paging industry which provides the lowest cost communications to farmers, parents, and small businesspeople.

It seems obvious that paging is a service which should be treated differently since it will not be eligible to receive any Universal Service funds. Paging, due to its inherent nature, does not provide the two-way voice service that would deem them eligible to be a "carrier of last resort." Hence, paging companies will never be eligible to receive any Universal funds even though they are required to contribute. Moreover, prior FCC findings and decisions take into account the fact that paging companies use local exchange networks differently from Local Exchange Carriers and other voice carriers.

The current Joint Board recommendation is certainly not the "equitable and nondiscriminatory treatment" discussed in Section 254(d) of the Telecommunications Act passed last year. I urge you to consider using your forbearance authority granted in the Telecommunications Act to remove the requirement that paging companies pay into the Universal Service Fund or to significantly lower the levels of Universal Service obligations imposed on the paging industry. I would appreciate your consideration of my concerns when coming to a final decision in the Universal Service proceeding.

Sincerely,

  
Chip Pickering

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE



MICHIGAN HEALTH & HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

*Linking patients, communities, and providers together for better health.*

May 7, 1997

Sent by FAX

FCC Commissioner Mr. James Quello -- FAX: 202-418-2802  
FCC Commissioner Rachelle Chong -- FAX: 202-418-2820  
FCC Commissioner Susan Ness -- FAX: 202-418-2821

**SUBJECT: Telecommunications Relations Affecting Telemedicine**

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association's 167 hospitals, of which over 100 are located in rural Michigan towns, villages and cities, I extend our support for a "Universal Service Policy" which is part of the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

MHA is supportive of the FCC's Advisory Committee on Telecommunications and provide rural access to telecommunications services at about the same overall costs that are faced by urban health care providers. Elimination of distance charges is essential.

Additionally, MHA supports the toll free connections to the Internet. Eligible rural health care providers should receive support to help pay toll charges if they cannot connect to the Internet via a local call.

Thank you for your consideration of MHA's comments.

Sincerely,

Laura J. Redoutey  
Group Vice President, Advocacy

IJR:bw

0096-45  
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

SPENCER JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

6215 West St. Joseph Highway • Lansing, Michigan 48917 • (517) 323-3443 • Fax (517) 323-0946

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE



Calvin R. White, Sr.  
Principal

# BEAUFORT HIGH SCHOOL

2501 Mossy Oaks Road  
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29902  
Telephone: (803) 525-4241  
Fax: (803) 522-3203

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS

MAY 12 2 41 PM '97

RECEIVED

MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 24, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Susan Ness  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am an administrator for Beaufort High School in Beaufort County Schools, South Carolina. I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Internet and other telecommunications systems. We recently connected our entire school district to the Internet and all students and staff have access. It is a valuable educational tool.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. We have benefited from the use of distance learning by enabling students to take courses that we are unable to offer on site. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing for the workforce of tomorrow.

Beaufort County Schools has made a sizable monetary investment in gaining district wide access to the Internet. If we are able to receive some federal discounts, we would use them to augment and increase our telecommunications capabilities.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Catherine Spencer*

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_

0